

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1543

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 5550

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, ENRG, EINV, AR

SUBJECT: GOA NAMES YPF PRESIDENT

REF: BUENOS AIRES 5123

1. THE GOA HAS NAMED ING. RAUL AGUSTIN ONDARTS PRESIDENT OF THE STATE-OWNED PETROLEUM COMPANY, YACIMIENTOS PETROLIFEROS FISCALES (YPF). ONDART WAS APPOINTED TO A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT POSITIONS IN THE PAST, INCLUDING: SUBSECRETARY OF INDUSTRY IN 1957; SECRETARY OF COMMUNICATIONS IN 1962; SUBSECRETARY OF ECONOMY AND LABOR IN 1967; AND PRESIDENT OF HIDRONOR, THE STATE-OWNED CONSTRUCTION COMPANY. ONDARTS HAS ALSO HAD AN ACTIVE POLITICAL PAST, INITIALLY AS A MEMBER OF RADICAL PARTY (UCRP) AND SUBSEQUENTLY AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF UNDELPA, GENERAL ARAMBURU'S PARTY. HE HAS A REPUTATION AS A POLITICAL CONSERVATIVE AND A GOOD ADMINISTRATOR. ACCORDING TO AN EXCERPT FROM AN ARTICLE WRITTEN BY ONDARTS IN 1964 AND CARRIED IN NACION, HE APPEARS CLEARLY IN FAVOR OF GIVING PRIVATE COMPANIES A GREATER PARTICIPATION IN THE PETROLEUM SECTOR.

2. SOURCES WHO KNOW ONDARTS SAY HE IS A GOOD, CAPABLE MANAGER BUT A TOUGH NEGOTIATOR. THEY INTERPRET HIS
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APPOINTMENT AS A CLEAR VICTOR FOR MINISTER OF ECONOMY MARTINEZ DE HOZ, WHO SELECTED HIM PERSONALLY AND WHO INSISTED ON HAVING A CIVILIAN APPOINTED AS YPF HEAD. THE APPOINTMENT OF ONDARTS, AS WELL AS THE RECENT APPROVAL BY THE PRESIDENT OF SIX SERVICE CONTRACTS FOR PRIVATE ARGENTINE COMPANIES, IS SEEN AS A SIGN THAT THE PRO-PRIVATE SECTOR GROUP IN THE GOA IS GAINING STRENGTH OVER

THE STATISTS. THE AMOCO REP IS NOW OPTIMISTIC THAT
AMOCO'S SERVICE CONTRACT DIFFICULTIES WITH THE GOA WILL
NOW BE RESOLVED.

3. OTHER MEMBERS APPOINTED TO THE YPF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INCLUDE: CARLOS BENAGLIA, HORACIO SIBURU, ISMAEL SIERRA,
MARIO ARANGUREN, EDUARDO OXENFORD, ADMIRAL JUAN ROSPIDO,
BRIGADIER NORBERTO SCIUTTO, AND CARLOS ROJO, WHO WAS
FORMERLY YPF'S INTERVENER. OXENFORD, ROSPIDO, AND ROJO
ARE REPORTEDLY PRO-PRIVATE SECTOR ADVOCATES; NOTHING IS
YET KNOWN ABOUT THE OTHERS.

4. COMMENT: THE NEW APPOINTMENTS ARE ENCOURAGING AND
WILL HOPEFULLY LEAD TO MORE RAPID APPROVAL OF SERVICE AND
RISK CONTRACTS FOR PRIVATE PETROLEUM COMPANIES, BOTH
ARGENTINE AND FOREIGN.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 29-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: PINR, ENRG, EINV, AR, YPF, YACIMIENTOS PETROLIFEROS FISCALES, (ONDARTS, RAUL AGUSTIN)
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